

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2024**



Please note that the following is a summarization of the Board Meeting; the meeting, in its entirety, can be viewed using the following links on the Warren County website:
<https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSW4H4CUJ-4>

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:

You are hereby notified that I, Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on **November 7, 2025 AT 11:00 A.M.**, for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of the 2026 Tentative Budget
2. Any other such business which may appropriately be brought before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: October 14, 2025

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN
Warren County Board of Supervisors

To the Members of the Board of Supervisors: At the direction of the Chairman of the Board, I am notifying you of the Special Meeting called for the time, place and purposes set forth above.

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK
Warren County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren

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County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.
Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Thomas.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Maday, Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Bruno, Driscoll, Patchett, Geraci, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Strainer, Etu, Thomas, Runyon and Geraghty - 18; Absent - 2 Supervisors Bean and Crocitto.

Chairman Geraghty called for public comments, but there was no one wishing to speak.

Chairman Geraghty noted the purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to present the 2026 Tentative County Budget. Privilege of the floor was extended to Frank Thomas, *Budget Officer*, who thanked Chairman Geraghty and the members of the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to serve as Budget Officer this year, noting he did not seek re-election for another term as Supervisor for the Town of Stony Creek. He then extended his gratitude to John Taflan, *County Administrator*; Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*; Christine Norton, *County Treasurer*; Monica Stark, *Deputy County Treasurer*; Dan Donohue, *Accountant*; and Anne Bruno, *Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator*, for all their time and effort put into organizing this 2026 Budget. He recognized the Department Heads for their efforts preparing their 2026 Budget requests and the leadership they provided throughout this past year. Supervisor Thomas then proceeded to review a summary of the proposed 2026 Tentative Budget following which a Power Point presentation on same was reviewed, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting which included: the 2026 Budget Officer's Recommendations and Personnel Requests for 2026. At the conclusion of the Power Point presentation, Supervisor Thomas answered questions posed by the Supervisors during which Supervisor Strough exited the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

This concluded the comments on the 2026 Tentative Budget, and Chairman Geraghty resumed the Chair.

Chairman Geraghty thanked Supervisor Thomas for his efforts in preparing the 2026 Tentative County Budget.

Reading of resolutions by the Clerk of the Board was announced as follows:

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, apprised Floor Resolutions 1 and 2 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Monday, November 3rd, along with proposed Resolution No. 401. Floor Resolution Nos. 3-6 were distributed and posted to the County website on November 6th. She noted motions were required to bring each to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Accepting Tentative Budget Providing Appropriations for the Conduct of County business for the fiscal year 2026 and Authorizing Public Hearing on the Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 402.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Bruno and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor

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Resolution No. 2, *Accepting Tentative Budget Providing Appropriations for the Conduct of County business for the fiscal year 2026 and Authorizing Public Hearing on the Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen apprised Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 403.

Motion was made by Supervisor Geraci, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing Agreement with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the County Administrator's Budget; and Amending 2025 Warren County Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen indicated Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 404.

Motion was made by Supervisor Driscoll, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 4, *Authorizing Agreement with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the County Administrator's Budget; and Amending 2025 Warren County Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen stated Floor Resolution No. 4 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 405.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Gilligan and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 5, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing Agreement with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the County Administrator's Budget; and Amending 2025 Warren County Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised Floor Resolution No. 5 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 406.

Motion was made by Supervisor Turner, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Bean, Crocitto and Strough absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 6, *Authorizing Agreement with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the County Administrator's Budget; and Amending 2025 Warren County Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced Floor Resolution No. 6 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 407.

Chairman Geraghty called for discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions:

With regard to proposed Resolution No. 401, *Authorizing Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to Upgrade the Existing Vesta 911 System for the Sheriff's Office*, Supervisor Etu said he assumed the proposed Resolution had not been approved by the Criminal Justice, Public Safety & Emergency Services Committee and he questioned why it was being brought before them today. Mrs. Allen responded the proposed Resolution had gone before the Committee and a resolution was approved for the November 21st Board Meeting, but the resolution was before them today so that the work associated with the contract could begin sooner.

Supervisor Magowan questioned whether the funding authorized by proposed Resolution No. 405, *Authorizing Agreement with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York; Appropriating Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the County Administrator's Budget; and Amending 2025 Warren County Budget*, would be reimbursed when the Federal Government was re-opened. John Taflan, *County Administrator*, replied this action

was being taken due to SNAP (*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*) benefits not being available as of November 1st as a result of the shutdown. He explained there were about 6,700 Warren County residents, or 4,000 households, who received SNAP benefits each month, with the payments typically deposited on their EBT (*Electronic Benefits Transfer*) card between the 1st and 10th of every month; however, he noted, the Federal Government had only committed to providing 65% of these benefits to individuals and/or households. He further explained the Federal Government distributed the funding to the States which then allocated the funding to two separate contractors who used the allocations to fund the EBT cards. He stated a Federal Court in Rhode Island had ruled in favor of the Federal Government funding 100% of these payments and in response the Federal Government indicated their plan to appeal this decision. He stated as a result of this action even if the Federal Government were to release the funding today, he did not foresee SNAP benefits becoming available to recipients until around the middle of the month. He advised the proposed Resolution would permit funding to be allocated from Budget Code A.909.00, *General Fund Unappropriated Surplus*, to be distributed to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, noting they were the organization that provided food to the thirteen food pantries within the County. He added the Regional Food Bank had also organized a drive thru food distribution event on November 11th at Glens Falls High School. He apprised the plan was to allocate \$50,000 and then determine whether additional funding was required if the shutdown continued, adding it may not be necessary to expend the entire \$150,000. He concluded, advising several neighboring Counties were also taking similar action.

Supervisor Magowan expressed his concern a portion of the funding would be used to cover overhead expenses, advising he believed it was necessary for the County to decrease its spending. He added this was yet another example of financial obligations falling upon the County, with no reimbursement being provided.

In response to Supervisor Magowan's comments, Mr. Taflan apprised it was determined the appropriate manner to streamline allocating funds to the local food banks was to contract with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York rather than authorizing contracts with each individual food pantry within the County, noting they already provided a significant amount of inventory to these food pantries, with deliveries being made twice a week. He concluded by noting the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York had committed to using the funds to replenish the inventory of the local food banks, with the County having the ability to track those expenses through the invoices submitted by them.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Taflan also noted should the Federal Government shutdown continue, there would be no funding provided for the HEAP (*Home Energy Assistance Program*) or the Head Start Program.

Chairman Geraghty called for a collective vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 401-407 were approved as presented, with Supervisor Magowan voting in opposition.

Chairman Geraghty called for public comments:

Bob Dylan, *Town of Lake George Resident*, encouraged the County to increase the property tax rate rather than sales tax to increase its revenue stream, noting he believed increasing the sales tax rate would have more of a negative impact on residents than increased property taxes.

Chairman Geraghty called for announcements:

Chairman Geraghty announced a free Thanksgiving Dinner was being held at the Warrensburg Fire House for senior citizens on November 23rd, apprising they were anticipating more

attendees this year.

Supervisor Driscoll suggested the Board members and public consider supporting the local organizations who were preparing for Thanksgiving and holiday activities on top of the regular services they provided to residents. He then recognized the Glens Falls High School Boys Soccer team, who would be playing tomorrow for a chance to compete in the Class A State semifinals later this month.

Supervisor Merlino introduced Jim Niles, who would be taking over as Town of Lake Luzerne Supervisor on January 1st.

Mr. Taflan stated the County was collecting food for those in need, with collection areas at the DMV (*Department of Motor Vehicles*) entrance and the Human Services Building, noting one delivery had already been made to the food pantry. He added the restaurants in the Village of Lake George and the City of Glens Falls were working on making meals available to those in need.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Conover, Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.